

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 781

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV CG

SUBJ: COMMENT ON GOZ SHAKEUP

1. ON BALANCE, WE CONSIDER PLUSSES OUTWEIGH MINUSES FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. WE CHEER UMBA'S DEPARTURE AS FONMIN. OUR CONTACT WITH BULA DURING FIGHT PREPARATIONS MEANS WE ARE PROBABLY ONE OF FEW EMBASSIES IN KINSHASA WITH RECENT OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH HIM. BULA IS ROUGH AND TOUGH, CLOSE TO BISENGIMANA, TRUSTED BY MOBUTU, BUT FROM CONSPIRATORIAL AND ACTIVIST, NOT DIPLOMATIC BACKGROUND. HE SHOULD BE IMPROVEMENT BUT HOW MUCH REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

2. INONGA (TRANSPORT) WILL BE DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT OVER EKETEBI, WHOSE BLATANT CORRUPTION HAS PROVED TOO MUCH FOR MOBUTU SO, WE SUSPECT WILL BOFOSSA (FINANCE) FOR HEAVY DRINKING BARUTI. BONKONGA IN KEY INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA MINISTRY SHOULD BE BETTER FOR US IN PART BECAUSE HE IS LESS AGGRESSIVE PROPAGANDIST THAN SAKOMBI WHOM HE REPLACES, AS WELL AS PRO-WEST. SAKOMBI WE NEVER CONSIDERED TO BE ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY.

3. WE, OF COURSE, REGRET DEPARTURE OF NAMWISI (NATIONAL ECONOMY) AND NDONGOLA (COMMERCE) BUT MAMBU, NAMWISI'S REPLACEMENT, IS HIGHLY COMPETENT AND WAS USED BY MOBUTU AND BISENGIMANA IN RE-NEGOTIATION OF UNION MINIERE COMPENSATION AGREEMENT LAST YEAR. TSHIMPUMPU SEEMED WELL DISPOSED FROM CONTACT WE HAD WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS VICE PRESIDENT OF FORMAN-ALO FIGHT COMMITTEE.

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4. ABLE, AMBITIOUS ENGULU NOW HAS UNIQUE HONOR OF SERVING BOTH IN POLITICAL BUREAU AND CABINET.

5. FACT THAT KAYINGA RETAINS AGRICULTURE AND MABOLIA EDUCATION -- NEITHER OF WHOM HAVE IMPRESSED US--SUGGESTS SWEEPING REFORMS IN THESE SECTORS PROMISED IN YEAR-END POLICY STATEMENTS MAY START SLOWLY.

6. SAMBWA HAS RETAINED HIS POST AS GOVERNOR OF NATIONAL BANK BUT NSELE (PRESIDENT BANQUE DU PEUPLE) HAS BEEN APPOINTED VICE GOVERNOR (NEW POSITION) AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL DISBANDED.

7. MOBUTU HAS AGAIN SHOWED WHO'S BOSS BUT IT LOOKS LIKE BISENGIMANA, NGUZA AND ENGULU REMAIN KEY ADVISORS AS DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENCY, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL BUREAU, AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR RESPECTIVELY. OF THESE, BISENGIMANA HAS MOST CLEARLY STRENGTHENED HIS POSITION WITH DEPARTURE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, OF ONE ENEMY (EKETEBI) AND WITH PROMOTION TWO MEN WHO WORKED DIRECTLY FOR HIM IN PRESIDENCY (BULA AND TSHIMPUMPU) AS WELL AS ANOTHER WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH HIM (MAMBU). SAMBWA'S RETENTION, HOWEVER, GIVES MOBUTU ONE IMPORTANT COUNTER-VAILING ADVISOR TO BISENGIMANA IN ECONOMIC AREA.

8. LATE DEVELOPMENT: KINSHASA RADIO JAN 8 ANNOUNCED EXPULSION OF FORMER STATE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS EKTEBI FROM NATIONAL ORDER OF THE LEOPARD. SUPREME COURT TO CONDUCT JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO EKETEBI'S ACTIVITIES AT REQUEST OF MOBUTU.

HINTON

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